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DWCNewsline

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Division of Workers' Compensation Court Administrator Keven Star called to active Army duty for one year

Regional Manager Joel Harter to oversee EAMS while Regional Manager Mark Kahn takes on court operations statewide

Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) Court Administrator Keven Star has been called up to serve one year of active duty with the United States Army in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, beginning Sept. 5, 2008. As the court administrator, Star has responsibility for administering the workers' compensation adjudicatory process at the trial level and is the project director for the Electronic Adjudication Management System (EAMS). DWC will complete its transition to EAMS as the system of record before Star leaves and Regional Manager Joel Harter will take on the majority of Star's EAMS duties following his departure. Regional Manager Mark Kahn will take over Star's statewide court administration duties in his absence and Salinas Presiding Judge Thomas Clarke will step in to manage the northern region offices so Harter can focus full time on EAMS.

"I am confident my year's leave will have no impact on district office operations or EAMS," said Star. "DWC has a strong set of leaders and an amazing team of people across the board working on EAMS. The members of this enthusiastic team, and everyone involved, have given significantly of themselves to ensure EAMS succeeds and that injured workers and employers receive the best service possible."

Statewide, more than 150 DWC employees are involved in EAMS training, testing, implementation and support services. The division is currently in the final stages of training all its employees on how to use EAMS and has begun piloting the new system at district offices in preparation for go-live on Aug. 25.

"I will be here through EAMS go-live and the EAMS team will see the external implementation through successfully after I leave for Army duty," said Star. "This vital project will ensure that the division and the people of California have a workers' compensation system that is modern, flexible and sustainable."

Star served for eight years on active duty and for the last nine has been an active Army reservist. Since his appointment to the position of court administrator in May 2005, Star has been engaged in military service on several occasions for shorter durations. During this duty Star will be stationed in the United States

EAMS is a computer-based system that will simplify and improve the DWC's case management process. EAMS will also reduce environmental and physical stress associated with maintaining paper files and help guide policy decisions to better distribute resources.

EAMS will first be implemented at DWC administration and district offices beginning Aug. 25. Once the new system has been successfully implemented at the division level, EAMS will become accessible to case participants and the general public in phases. For more information on EAMS, visit www.dwc.ca.gov/eams.

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